

REMARKS

Applicants are filing this Reply and Response under 37 CFR §1.116 in response to the Examiner's Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112 of Claims 40-43 and Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) of Claims 63-66.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 112

Claims 40-43 is rejected under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 40 recites "predominantly straight chain alkyl groups". The scope of the claim is confusing because it is not clear what is meant by "predominantly" or what types of straight chain alkyl groups are considered "predominantly" straight chain.

It is noted that the above rejection was previously set forth in paragraph 39e) of the office action mailed 3/24/06 with respect to each of Claims 40-43.

In response, the amendment filed 4/20/06, applicants deleted "predominantly" from each of Claims 41-43. However, no such amendment was made to Claim 40. Thus, it is the examiner's position that the scope of Claim 40 remains confusing for the reasons set forth above and therefore, the rejection remains against present Claim 40.

Applicants have deleted the word "predominantly" used before the words "straight chain alkyl groups" in Claim 40 thus obviating the examiner's rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

Claims 63-66 are rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Kwabe et al. (U.S. 6, 187,972).

The Examiner has stated that the rejection is adequately set forth in paragraph 5 of the office action mailed 3/24/06 and is incorporated here by reference.

Applicants have cancelled Claims 62-66 to expedite allowance of Claims 1-62.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner has found Claims 1-39 and 44-62 are allowable over the "closest" prior art.

Applicants gratefully appreciate the Examiner's finding of allowable subject matter of Claims 1-39 and 44-62.

Applicants have amended Claim 40 in this paper. Earlier in the office action mailed February 27, 2007, the Examiner stated that Applicants had deleted the word "predominantly" from Claims 41-43. The amendment to Claims 41-43 obviated the Examiner's previous rejection of Claims 41-43, thus making Claims 40-43 allowable.

Accordingly, allowance of Claim 1-62 is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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Enclosures
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